New NRC Training Requirements

The Good News and the Bad News

The non-NRC training and experience regulations became effective on October 24, 2005. The regulations require to nuclear medicine programs to be CTR-35-190 training for radiation safety, CTR-35-200 training for radiation protection, and CTR-35-206 training for radiation safety and radiation protection.

The required courses are grouped into three areas: basic radiation safety, radiation protection, and radiation safety and protection. The basic radiation safety course is required for all nuclear medicine programs, and the other two courses are required for programs that perform hot procedures.

The new requirements include:

- A new category of radiation safety training, covering both the basic radiation safety and radiation protection courses.
- A new category of radiation safety and protection training, covering both the basic radiation safety and radiation protection courses.
- A new category of radiation protection training, covering the radiation protection course only.
- A new category of radiation safety and protection training, covering both the basic radiation safety and radiation protection courses.

The new requirements also require that all nuclear medicine programs have at least one radiation safety officer, one radiation protection officer, and one radiation safety and protection officer.

The new requirements are intended to improve the quality of radiation safety and protection training in nuclear medicine programs.

The new requirements will be implemented in stages, with the first stage effective on October 24, 2005. The second stage will be effective on October 24, 2006. The third stage will be effective on October 24, 2007.

The new requirements will apply to all nuclear medicine programs, regardless of their size or location. The new requirements will also apply to nuclear medicine residents.

The new requirements will be enforced by the NRC, and violators will be subject to fines and other penalties.

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The new requirements will be enforced by the NRC, and violators will be subject to fines and other penalties.
The good news is that on October 25, 2006, the NRC officially recognised ABNM certification as evidence that a physician has the knowledge and skills necessary to receive a license to practice nuclear medicine. This is not to say that the ABNM certification is the only way to receive a license; other boards, such as the American Board of Radiology, also have a similar certification process. However, the ABNM certification is now recognised as one of the major requirements for those who wish to practice nuclear medicine in the United States. This is a significant step forward for the field of nuclear medicine, and it is expected to have a positive impact on the quality of care that patients receive.

The bad news is that the ABNM certification does not guarantee employment. As with any certification, it is up to the employer to determine whether the certification is sufficient for the job. In addition, the ABNM certification is not recognised by all employers, and some may still require additional training or experience. This may be especially true for those who are starting out in their careers or who are looking to make a career change.

In conclusion, the ABNM certification is a significant step forward for the field of nuclear medicine. It is a recognition of the knowledge and skills of physicians who have completed their training and who are ready to practice nuclear medicine. However, it is important to remember that the certification is not a guarantee of employment and that additional training or experience may be required for some positions.
Self-assessment is not graded; lifelong learning is an important aspect of nuclear medicine practice. Many board-certified nuclear medicine practitioners are required to take self-assessment courses to maintain their license to practice. The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) has begun posting self-assessment modules on its Web site, www.snm.org/hq/ce/moc/. The SNM Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Program (LLSAP) will add the ABNM’s Part 2 requirement to the Part 4 program. The self-assessment modules include instruction in nuclear medicine, medical physics, and radiation safety. These modules are intended to help practitioners keep their knowledge up to date so that they can provide the best possible care to their patients. The ABNM requires that practitioners complete 12 hours of self-assessment for every 2 years, or a total of 24 hours over a 4-year period. This program is one of the requirements for recertification under the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) continuous certification (MOC™) program, which is replacing recertification as a way to maintain board certification. The program allows for lifelong learning and self-assessment, and it is not graded. The SNM has already posted over 1000 self-assessment modules on its Web site, and the number of modules posted continues to grow. The modules are divided into several different categories, including diagnostic nuclear medicine, nuclear cardiology, PET imaging, and radiation safety. Each module consists of a series of questions that test the user’s knowledge of the subject matter. The user can take the test at their own pace, and the results are immediately available. The SNM has also developed an online learning management system that allows users to track their progress and earn continuing education credits. The system is designed to be user-friendly and easy to use, and it is available to anyone with an Internet connection. The SNM is committed to providing high-quality self-assessment modules that will help practitioners stay up-to-date with the latest developments in nuclear medicine.
Table 1: LLSAP Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs), cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAM Title and Vice-Chairs</th>
<th>Section Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Basic Science—Physical and Chemical Aspects of Radionuclides</td>
<td>B. Radionuclide Esophageal and Oropharyngeal Transit Studies</td>
<td>Miller, Barkin, Fidler, Schraefel</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Other Adult Applications of Renal Imaging</td>
<td>Schreiner, Milkman, Nohria, Weir, Aubry, Morello, Failla</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D. Bone Scintigraphy</td>
<td>Gautier, Faxon, O’Connor, Zaidi</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. PET and Hybrid PET-CT</td>
<td>Bickel, Howlett, Gill, Sibley, Meinhart</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABNM is developing a survey about your practice performance to be filled out by all nuclear physicians, interns and residents. This survey should help you identify areas where you could improve your practice.

Finally, the SNM is developing a resiliation environment where you can view your results over the Internet and see how your interpretation with the interpretations of experts and with those of your peers. This will be possible to give you valuable feedback regarding your strengths and weaknesses in an environment that closely mimics clinical practice. The initial set of this will be PET-CT and CT cases.

The Board’s Part 4 program will evolve over the next several years, just as the evaluation of your practice should evolve. We are anxious to know what about the program. We are also open to hearing about your experiences with the self-assessment process. Please send any feedback or suggestions that can help improve your practice. The exam will contain a broad array of topics, ranging from the most basic to the most advanced. It will assess your knowledge and skills in areas such as patient care, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and emergency medicine.
Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Has Arrived

Dominique Delbeke, M.D., and J. Anthony Parker, M.D., Ph.D.

We have already had several articles in Touch on Maintenance of Certification (MOC™), MOC in recertification as a more complete process in assessing continuing quality of Nuclear Medicine practice. The American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) has been working on an MOC program for several years. This past fall, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved the ABNM’s MOC plans and 2006 will see the implementation of MOC for ABNM diplomates.

Recall that there are four components to Maintenance of Certification:

1. Professional Standing—Evidence of professional standing provided by a medical license(s) that has no limitations on the practice of medicine and surgery.
2. Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment—Evidence of a commitment to lifelong learning and involvement in a periodic self-assessment process to guide continuing learning.
3. Cognitive Experiences—Evidence of cognitive experiences based on performance on an examination. This component consists of the recertification examination administered by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM).
4. Performance in Practice Evaluation—Evidence of completion of performance in practice, including the medical care provided and the maintenance of health and physiologic behaviors, such as nutrition and physical activity, as they relate to patient care.

The first two MOC components are requirements of the ABMS’s requirements. MOC is replacing recertification as a milestone of certification and is intended to be a part of lifelong learning. Similar to standard lifelong learning, self-assessment is intended to provide a valuable opportunity to review the knowledge and skills required for effective practice. Continuing improvement is at the heart of learning activities. In 2006, we will see the beginning of the Part 4 program described below.

Professional Standing and Self-Assessment

The Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) has been working on self-assessment modules on its Web site, www.snm.org/sam, called the LLSAP (Learning, Learning, Self-Assessment Program). These modules will fulfill the ABNM’s Part 2 MOC requirement. The self-assessment modules include radiation oncology, nuclear medicine, and medical imaging. The image datasets have two types of self-assessment: diagnostic and procedural. There are traditional questions about what the images datasets have two types of self-assessment: diagnostic and procedural. There are traditional questions about what the

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<tr>
<td>C. Gastric Empting</td>
<td>Bruner, Van Heertum, Frye, et al.</td>
<td>1/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Measurement of Renal Function with Radionuclides</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Hepatobiliary Scintigraphy</td>
<td>Bruner, Van Heertum, Frye, et al.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. In Vitro Experience</td>
<td>Bruner, Van Heertum, Frye, et al.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. In Vitro</td>
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This program will evolve over the next several years, just as the evaluation of your practice should evolve. We are anxious to hear feedback about the program. Is it helping you improve your practice? Is the format on providing the feedback a helpful improvement? Is your continuing practice evaluation meaningful? We are always happy to hear feedback about the program.

Part 4: Performance in Practice Evaluation

The final component of MOC is in development and will be MOC’s Part 4, to be implemented in 2006. The ABNM plans to implement a checklist of items that would help you in your continuous quality improvement efforts. The goal of the checklist is to help you improve your practice and to identify areas for improvement. Each module of self-assessment will provide 2.5 or more self-assessment CME credits. Table 1 shows the status of these modules as of December 2006.

Table 2: LLSAP Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs), cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Applications</td>
<td>Bruner, Van Heertum, Frye, et al.</td>
<td>1/06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Radiopharmaceuticals:</td>
<td>Bruner, Van Heertum, Frye, et al.</td>
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<td>A. Cystography in Children</td>
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This information has been updated and is subject to change. Please check the ABNM Web site for the most current information.

NEW ABNM BOARD MEMBERS

Evelyn L. DeLaGraaff, MD, FACMR, FACNM, FACBMT, FACMP, FACR, Chair-elect, Radiation Safety Rounding, Radiology, University Medical School of the State of Michigan, Mifflin

Bruce R. Line, MD, Professor of Nuclear Medicine, Elsevier, and Director, Division of Nuclear Medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine, Mifflin

ABMS is developing a survey about your practice performance in the Lifelong Learning, Performance (LLSAP) environment. We need to know what your patients are like and how you care for them.

You may be interested in some perspectives on MOC recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine.


Changes (Part 2)

The death of one page 3 was for the week of March 2005. Changes are being made in our web site and our newsgroup. Little did I know at the time how precarious this title would be. In June 2005, Glenda Gordon resigned after performing admirably as the ABNM administrator for nearly two years. Her resignation set a whole chain of events in motion. The major change was that the ABNM office was moved from Los Angeles to St. Louis. The new office is in a residential/commercial building immediately adjacent to the Washington University medical school complex. The infrastructure needed to support the ABNM administrative responsibilities is already in place. The new ABNM administrator will be responsible for the administration, finance, personnel, and communications, among other tasks. It will need to be effective.

This past year has shown that the board needs to support the organization. Just as the ABNM needed to support its diplomates, this new board member will be responsible for the board's overall activities. This fee is necessary for the board to develop and maintain the financial stability that MOC requires. The need for a new board member will be critical in the coming year.

New NRC Training Requirements

The new NRC training requirements and experience regulations became effective on October 24, 2005. The regulations require all nuclear medicine programs to have a (C) or (3) training for equal to or greater than 400 hours, a new (C) training for an additional 900 hours, and to complete a training program in nuclear medicine. The new (C) training will be a requirement for all board members, whether or not they are diplomates. This new training will be implemented in the first group of dues letters in 2005.

New Board Members

2005 ABNM Examination Results

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Recertification Examination Dates

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Visit www.abnm.org

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine
Suite 119, 4555 Forest Park Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Note New Address: